35. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

Nodal agency for infotech sector

933. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up shortly a nodal agency for the infotech sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the various functions and duties proposed to be allotted to it; and

(d) by when the new set up is expected to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Ceiling on telecom tariff

934. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether because of the prevailing imbroglio in the telecom sector, Government would discourage predatory pricing by service providers;

(b) whether Government intend to impose a minimum lower ceiling in telecom tariffs, making it mandatory for the service providers not to undercut rates to lure business; and

(c) whether the row between VSNL and private cellular operators stood resolved and if so, the details of the compromise reached between the two?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Under the Telecom, Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 as amended by TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been established to regulate the telecommunication services and to protect the interests of service providers as well as consumers of the telecom sector so as to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Further, TRAI prescribes rates for telecommunication services including different rates for different persons or class of persons for similar telecommunication services while ensuring transparency in exercising its powers.

(c) No row has been reported between VSNL and private cellular operators.

E-commerce and E-governance programmes

935. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to speed up e-commerce and e-governance programmes in its Departments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the licences issued by Controller of certifying Authority for certifying digital signatures;

(d) the reasons for slow progress in use of the digital signature: and

(e) the measures to be adopted to increase the technology in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise